

Julie Parsley
Commissioner

Paul Hudson
Chairman

Barry T. Smitherman
Commissioner

W. Lane Lanford
Executive Director



Public Utility Commission of Texas

September 7, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A306
Washington, D.C. 20554

Irene Flannery
Vice President, High Cost & Low Income Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
2120 L Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20037

**RE: State Rate Comparability Review and Certification for Non-Rural ILECs,
CC Docket No. 96-45**

To the Filing Representatives:

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.316,¹ the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Texas PUC) certifies that the rural residential rates charged by SBC Texas and Verizon² as of July 1, 2005 were below the Federal Communication Commission's nationwide urban benchmark of \$34.16.

Therefore, for purposes of § 254(b)(3) of the Federal Telecommunications Act, the Texas PUC certifies that the rural residential rates charged by SBC Texas and Verizon are reasonably comparable to urban rates.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact Rosemary McMahon in our Policy Development Division, (512) 936-7244.

Respectfully submitted,

¹ *In re Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 03-249, Order on Remand, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Memorandum Opinion and Order, Appendix A (rel. Oct. 27, 2003).

² SBC Texas and Verizon are the two non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) in Texas.

Pam Whittington
Division Director, Policy Development Division

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